

REF ID: A6510

Report No: NEC-778 Local File No:

From: []

No. of Pages: three No. of Enclosures: none

Report Made By: [] Approved By: [] 07+

Distribution: (5)
By copy to: (1)
 (1)
 (2)
Files (2) Orally to:

MICROFILMED
 FEB 6 1963
 DOC. MICRO. SER.

Source Cryptonym: See Below References: NEC-774

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

[] got this information from Ahmed Bayyur AHMAD

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCESMETHODSEXEMPTION 3828
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2008

INDEX Classification

SECRET//COMINT//U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

Form No. 51-50
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

18 Dec 54
R/COPY []

~~SECRET CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

Subject: Possible Plan of Report No: NEC-778
Ex-Grand Mufti to Date of Info: 13 December 1954
Move His Office to Damascus

Place Acquired: Egypt, Cairo Date Acquired: 16 December 1954
Evaluation of Content: 3 Date of Report: 18 December 1954
Source: A regular source (C) from an informant with good contacts
in the entourage of the ex-Grand Mufti (F.)

1. At a reception at the Iraqi Embassy, Cairo, for Iraqi Foreign Minister Musa al-SHABANDAR on 13 December 1954, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI, complained bitterly to a non-Egyptian Arab about his present position in Egypt. The Mufti, who appeared to be very tired and in a testy humor said that he was surrounded by Egyptian Government spies wherever he went. He stated that even at the reception he felt that he was being observed by agents who would report "to the officers."

2. The Mufti claimed to have received, through a recently arrived visitor, a letter from his daughter and son-in-law who are now in Damascus. (This particular son-in-law, an Egyptian, had been an officer in the Egyptian Army, but was dismissed following the NASSER crisis of March-April 1954 as a supporter of NAJIB. Sometime after his dismissal and upon receiving a tip-off that he would be arrested, he and his wife, the Mufti's daughter, left Egypt for Damascus.)

3. In the letter, the Mufti's son-in-law wrote that he was joining the efforts of exiled Egyptian Ikhwan-al-Muslimin leader

~~SECRET CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

18 Dec 54

SECRET CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

-2-

Said RAMADAN to organize a successful World Islamic Congress at Jerusalem. They would bring together all Muslim political and religious leaders to stand together against Western attempts to bring the Islamic world into Western alliances until the Palestine question had been solved, in accordance with the demands of the Arab world.

(a) The letter further assured the Mufti that he would find a friendly reception in Damascus when he came to visit his daughter and son-in-law and that there would be much for him to do after discussions with RAMADAN and his friends.

(b) The Mufti expressed the opinion ^{whether} ^(a) that Damascus will once again become a real Islamic center as it was under the Umayyids. Should he decide to move to Damascus, his role there would be an important one. The present Egyptian Government lost its chance of becoming a leader in pan-Arab affairs.

(c) The Ikhwan trials have finally opened the eyes of all Muslims ^(f) and proved that their ^(e) officers can no longer be regarded as representative of the Muslim world. The Syrian Ikhwan will become more influential in Syrian internal affairs now that Said RAMADAN has activated them by giving their leaders a chance ^(g) of participating ^(h) in the Palestine struggle. Syrian Ikhwan, under RAMADAN's leadership, will also fight against "infected" Iraq where the West has deprived the dynasty and the government of all initiative.

SECRET CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

NEC-778

8. The ex-Mufti's Cairo office has already approached the Syrian Government in order to learn whether the Mufti's move to Damascus would be welcome to the Syrian Government. But the Mufti is not assured of the stability of the present Syrian Government and is not sure whether he would be better off in Damascus than he is in Cairo.

Field Comment. One of the ex-Mufti's daughters married an Egyptian Army colonel on 14 June 1953 said to have been recommended by General Muhammad NAJIB.

SECRET CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

18 Dec 54
C]